

STATEWIDE MULTI-USE NETWORK (MNT)

Fact Sheet

Project Description: The Multi-Use Network project (MNT) is a public/private partnership to build a high-speed fiber-optic network for the State of Colorado. Qwest is the awarded partner selected to build the MNT with the State serving as anchor tenant. The State will aggregate Colorado State government agency telecommunication requirements from its current multiple networks into a single network to reduce administrative and maintenance costs to the State. As anchor tenant, the State's investment will help leverage the development of telecommunications infrastructure and expand delivery of advanced services to all geographic regions of the state. The MNT will be implemented in three phases beginning in June 2000 and completing in 2003.

Project Partners: Qwest and subcontractors (CenturyTel, Phillips County Telephone Company, Eastern Slope Telephone Company, Citizens Communications, and Cisco Systems) are the awarded private partners for the project and will build the high-speed network. The MNT infrastructure will be owned, managed, and monitored by Qwest. The State of Colorado is the anchor tenant partner and as such, uses the significant aggregated telecommunications requirements of state government agencies as the leverage investment for extension of telecommunication capabilities and advanced services into all geographic areas of the state. The State of Colorado MNT Project Team will provide oversight of the prime contractor during the network build-out phases.

Implementation Phases: The project will be conducted in three one-year phases in which 70 ANAPS or Aggregated Network Access Points will be implemented across the state. An ANAP is defined as a minimum of 20 megabits of access capability for State government network users in an area. This service will be delivered over the new fiber optic network utilizing ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) technology. Forty-three ANAPS have been implemented in Phase I; an additional eleven ANAPS will be implemented in Phase II, year 2002; and the final sixteen ANAPS will be implemented in Phase III, year 2003. The counties below are listed alphabetically within each phase.

Phase I ANAPS: Completed – Adams, Alamosa, Arapahoe, Baca, Bent, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Crowley, Delta, Denver (4 sites), Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Elbert, Fremont, Garfield (2 sites), Gilpin, Gunnison, Huerfano, Jefferson, La Plata, Larimer, Las Animas, Lincoln, Logan, Mesa, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, Otero, Pitkin, Prowers, Pueblo, Sedgwick, Summit, Washington, Weld, and Yuma.

Phase II ANAPS Year 2001– Chaffee (2 sites), Conejos, Costilla, Custer, Dolores, Grand, Moffat, Phillips, Routt, Saugache.

Phase III ANAPS Year 2002 – Archuleta, Cheyenne, Hinsdale, Jackson, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Ouray, Park, Rio Blanco, Rio Grande, San Juan, San Miguel, Teller.

Enabling Legislation: The MNT concept was developed in response to legislation passed by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado in 1996. The intent of SB 96-102 was to connect urban and rural communities across the state. From the start, the development of a public/private partnership was central to the concept of a MNT. The mandate for infrastructure development is aligned with local economic development based on the availability of advanced telecommunication services. SB 96-197 refers to the selection and operation of a Multiple-use Network. This is defined as a digital network capable of carrying integrated voice and video as well as text, graphics, and other electronic data between and among schools, public libraries, institutions of higher education, and state agencies. The bill mandated that the State investigate and select one or more multiple-use networks to accomplish this.

Benefits and Advantages: (1) State agencies, schools, libraries, and institutions of higher education will no longer need to purchase telecommunication services in a piecemeal fashion. An aggregated network approach streamlines government by avoiding additional expenditures for duplicative state networks and provides the base infrastructure for electronic transactions with government. (2) The MNT supports education both at the K-12 and Higher Education levels through establishing the infrastructure for interactive learning and distance learning. (3) The MNT supports telemedicine in rural communities. (4) The MNT promotes rural economic development by extending telecommunications infrastructure to all corners of the state by encouraging private investment with the state acting as the anchor tenant.

Contacts: The State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs (303) 866-2771 administers grant funds for community infrastructure aka "beanpole funds". The MNT Project Hotline is 1-866-MNT-COLO. News and updates will be posted at <http://www.state.co.us/mnt>.